

Reasons for a Tobacco Free Park

Protecting Kids

Tobacco-free parks provide healthier places for kids to play:

- Reduces toxic tobacco litter and helps prevent kids from playing with discarded cigarette butts
- Eliminates secondhand smoke
- Helps kids learn to live and have fun without tobacco products

Modeling Healthy Behavior

A city park is maintained for the use and enjoyment of its citizens, their families and people who visit Sunnyside Skate Park.

We believe it is good role modeling for children who use the park to see adults publicly enjoying the park without the use of tobacco products.

The sale to and use of tobacco products by minors is prohibited by law.

The goal is to have those who use the park to get the maximum enjoyment and benefit from its use.

Tobacco Free Park Policy

Adequate signs shall be posted on the city park grounds to notify the public of this policy.

Any person violating this policy will be instructed to either discontinue the use of tobacco products on property comprising the Sunnyside Park or leave the property. If the person fails to discontinue the use of tobacco products or leave the property, then that person's right to be on the Park property will terminate.

Enforcement

Tobacco-free park policies are generally self-enforcing. Many tobacco users look for "no tobacco" signs. Those using the property also feel comfortable offering friendly reminders to others who may be unaware of the park rules. Signs also help reduce the need for law enforcement.

In the event a person fails to discontinue the use of tobacco products or leave the property, then a trespassing complaint may be made to law enforcement.



Serving the
Children
of the World

June 13, 2013

Dear Atlantic Park Board,

I am writing in support of a tobacco-free park and recreational area in the city of Atlantic. A tobacco-free policy sends a clear message that we care about the health of the community, especially our youth.

Kiwanis mission is to serve children and we believe their safety and health are very important for us to protect. We have been very involved in Sunnyside Park with development and care of the Kiddie Corral as well as other play equipment. It is a concern that these properties are being littered with tobacco and children are being exposed to the harmful effects of tobacco products.

Tobacco use not only exposes participants and spectators to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, but it is also a nuisance and safety concern. We strive to teach the value of a clean well-kept community, the tobacco-free policy will help reduce litter and support the healthy message that we teach. Tobacco use in a park setting also sends a negative message to our youth that tobacco use is an acceptable behavior within our community.

I support Builders Club Atlantic STAND students and encourage you to prohibit tobacco use at city-owned parks and recreation facilities.

Thank you for considering a tobacco-free policy.

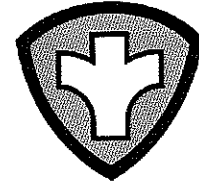
Laura Bacon
Kiwanis President

And members in support:

**Cass County Public Health Vision
Statement**

**"Public Health and its partners form a
responsive community that meets the needs of
people of all ages, welcoming them into
a healthy, safe and supportive environment."**

Valuing...Prevention,
Diversity,
Collaboration,
Complete Well-Being



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**PROCLAMATION
June 2013**

WHEREAS, Cass County Board of Health recognizes its role in protecting the health of the general public and safety of outdoor areas, and works to educate citizens on the perils of tobacco use; and

WHEREAS, to increase the enjoyment for those individuals and families who want to enjoy a healthy environment, we recognize that Iowa citizens, visitors and wildlife deserve clean air and surroundings free from tobacco related pollution and hazards; and

WHEREAS, children's vulnerability to environmental tobacco smoke and the difficult they have in protecting themselves from a threat imposed by adults places the burden of reducing or eliminating environmental smoke exposure of adults;

WHEREAS, recreation, therapeutic recreation and leisure education are essential to the rehabilitation of individuals who have been ill or disabled; and

WHEREAS, our parks and trails ensure ecological beauty, provide space to enjoy nature, help maintain clean air and water, and preserve plant and animal wildlife.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Cass County Board of Health we support the work of the Community Tobacco Prevention Partnership and recommend a tobacco free parks policy to the Atlantic Park and Recreation Board of Directors.

Signature:

Cass County Public Health President

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